



Intelligence Information Cable

ROUTINE

IN 62516

PAGE 1 OF 8 PAGES

STATE/WR DIA NMCC/MC (SECDEF JCS ARMY NAVY AIR) CIA/NMCC NIC NSA OSD ONE CDS OES FOS PCS
D/OSI 2 D/MS 2 INS AND USA

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

NO FOREIGN DISSEM

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

SECRET

310908Z

CITE TDCS - 314/19296-68

DIS 31 DECEMBER 1968

COUNTRY: JORDAN

DOI : 30 DECEMBER 1968

SUBJECT: BACKGROUND ON RECENT CABINET AND OTHER CHANGES
IN THE GOVERNMENT OF JORDAN.

ACQ : JORDAN, MANN,

(30 DECEMBER 1968) FIELD NO. NJA-7149

SOURCE : A SENIOR JORDANIAN OFFICIAL WHOSE REPORTING OVER
SEVERAL YEARS HAS BEEN RELIABLE. HE OBTAINED THE
INFORMATION FROM KING HUSAYN, PRIME MINISTER TALHUNI
AND VARIOUS CABINET MINISTERS.

SUMMARY: THE RECENT CABINET AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL CHANGES
IN JORDAN HAD NO REAL POLITICAL OR POLICY SIGNIFICANCE.
THEY REFLECTED ONLY THE DESIRE OF KING HUSAYN TO REPLACE
CERTAIN OFFICIALS WHOM HE CONSIDERED TOO WEAK OR UNQUALIFIED
TO CARRY THE BURDEN OF THEIR OFFICE AND PRIME MINISTER
BAHJAT TALHUNI'S EFFORT TO BALANCE THE KING'S DESIRES WITH
A FEW OF HIS OWN. THERE ARE FEWER POLITICIANS AND MORE
TECHNOCRATS IN THE NEW CABINET, WHICH DOES PUT IT MORE IN
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

SECRET

IN 62516

TDCS - 314/19296-68

PAGE 2 OF 8 PAGES

SECRET

NO FOREIGN DISSEM

LINE WITH THE KING'S CONCEPT OF THE CORRECT COMPOSITION OF THE CABINET. THE NEW COMBINATION MAY BE SLIGHTLY MORE INCLINED TO ACCEPT A TOUGHER LINE AGAINST THE FEDAYIIN IF THE ISSUE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE FEDAYIIN IS JOINED IN THE FUTURE. OTHERWISE, IT WAS ESSENTIALLY A FACE-CHANGING OPERATION. END SUMMARY.)

1. (FIELD COMMENT: ON 26 DECEMBER 1968, JORDAN ANNOUNCED A MAJOR SHUFFLE OF PRIME MINISTER BAHJAT TALHUNI'S CABINET. NJA-7115. REPORTED KING MUSAYN'S REASONS, DESIRE AND EFFORTS TO RESHUFFLE THE JORDANIAN CABINET AND THE TEMPORARY STALEMATE CREATED IN THESE EFFORTS BY TALHUNI'S RESISTANCE TO CERTAIN OF THE KING'S PROPOSED CHANGES.)

2. THE KING'S DETERMINATION TO CARRY THROUGH WITH A CABINET RESHUFFLE AND OTHER GOVERNMENT CHANGES BEFORE HE DEPARTED FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT IN LONDON ON 5 JANUARY 1969 BROUGHT THE CABINET ISSUE TO A HEAD DURING THE WEEK OF 22 DECEMBER. THE RESULT WAS

A COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE DESIRES OF THE KING AND TALHUNI. THE KING WAS CONCERNED BY THE PRO-FEDAYIIN SENTIMENTS OF MINISTER OF FINANCE

NO FOREIGN DISSEM

SECRET

IN 62516

TDCS - 314/19296-68

PAGE 3 OF 8 PAGES

SECRET

NO FOREIGN DISSEM

AJHASHIM JAYUSI AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AKIF AL-FAYIZ,
AND PARTICULARLY ANNOYED BY THEIR EXTREME VACILLATION DURING
THE GOVERNMENT'S CONFRONTATION WITH THE FEDAYIIN IN EARLY
NOVEMBER, WHICH HE TERMED "WEAK IF NOT TRAITOROUS". HE WAS
ALSO DISGUSTED WITH THE POOR PROPAGANDA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS
JOB BEING DONE BY THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION. HUSAYN
BLAMED THE MINISTER, SALAH ABU ZAYD, A FORMER ROYAL
FAVORITE, FOR FAILING TO TELL "THE JORDAN STORY" IN THE
FACE OF SUPERIOR, SUBTLE AND ADVERSE PROPAGANDA FROM THE
FEDAYIIN AND OTHER ARAB STATES, AND HAD BECOME CONVINCED
THAT ABU ZAYD SHOULD GO. FINALLY, THE KING WANTED TO GET
RID OF MINISTER OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS AND HOLY PLACES
(SHAYKH) ABD-AL-HAMID AL-SAYIH, WHO HAD BEEN PROMULGATING
INDEPENDENT AND IRRESPONSIBLE VIEWS ON THE PALESTINE ISSUE.
TALHUNI DID NOT OPPOSE THE REMOVAL OF ABU ZAYD OR AL-SAYIH,
BUT HE WAS ADAMANT ON THE CASES OF JAYUSI AND AL-FAYIZ,
SINCE BOTH WERE CONSIDERED HIS PROTEGES AND THEIR DISMISSAL
WOULD BE VIEWED BY THE PUBLIC AS A DIRECT SLAP AT TALHUNI.
TALHUNI CONSENTED TO THEIR REMOVAL ONLY IF IT WERE BALANCED
BY THE REMOVAL OF MINISTERS IDENTIFIED WITH THE KING. THE

NO FOREIGN DISSEM

SECRET

IN 62516

TDOS - 314/19296-68

PAGE 4 OF 8 PAGES

SECRET

NO FOREIGN DISSEM

MOST LOGICAL CANDIDATE IN THIS CATEGORY WAS MINISTER OF ECONOMY HATIM ZUBI. ILL HEALTH, THE ACCUMULATION OF CORRUPTION RUMORS AFTER ALMOST FIVE CONSECUTIVE YEARS IN THE CABINET, AND RECENT STORIES OF A MARITAL SCANDAL COMBINED TO TIP THE SCALE AGAINST ZUBI, AND THE KING CONSENTED TO HATIM ZUBI'S DISMISSAL FOR AL-FAYIZ'S. A SIMILAR DEAL FOR JAYUSI'S REMOVAL DID NOT DEVELOP, SO HE SURVIVED THE SHUFFLE.

3. ON A SECONDARY LEVEL HUSAYN HAD HIS WAY IN THE DISMISSAL OF MINISTER OF STATE FOR PRIME MINISTRY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION HAZIM MUSAYBIN AND MINISTER OF TRANSPORT ADIN AL-HUSAYNI, BOTH CONSIDERED VACILLATING PALESTINIANS, TOO WEAK FOR THE PRESSURES OF THE TIMES. TALHUNI TRIED TO INCLUDE ANOTHER PROTEGE, AMMAN LAMCI, IN THE NEW CABINET. BUT THE KING SUCCESSFULLY COUNTERED WITH MUSTA AEU KAGHIB, A CONSERVATIVE WEST BANKER MORE ALIGNED TO EX-PRIME MINISTER WASFI TAL THAN ANYONE ELSE. MUSTA SHAKRBI, A SAFE NON-CONTROVERSIAL CONSERVATIVE, WAS EQUALLY ACCEPTABLE TO THE KING AND TALHUNI AS ZUBI'S REPLACEMENT IN THE MINISTRY

NO FOREIGN DISSEM

SECRET

IN 62536

WCS - 314/29296-48

PAGE 5 OF 8 PAGES

SECRET

NO FOREIGN DISSEM

OF ECONOMY. THE ASSIGNMENT OF MUHAMMAD ALI AL-AMERI, JORDAN'S AMBASSADOR TO CAIRO, TO THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION WAS ALSO MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE. THE CHOICE OF AL-AMERI WAS PROMPTED BY TWO FACTORS. THE UAR HAS EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION WITH AL-AMERI, WHO HAD BEEN APPOINTED TO THE POST AFTER THE KHARTOUM CONFERENCE BECAUSE OF HIS HARD-HEADED HANDLING OF UAR REPRESENTATIVES DURING THOSE MEETINGS. SUCH TALENTS WERE NOW PROVING COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AND ADVERSELY AFFECTING HIS PERFORMANCE IN CAIRO. AT THE SAME TIME, THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION HAD DEGENERATED INTO A BUREAUCRATIC MESS AND NEEDED A TIGHT ADMINISTRATOR TO STRAIGHTEN IT OUT. ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT ARE AL-AMERI'S STRONG SUITE, SO HIS APPOINTMENT SOLVED BOTH THE CAIRO PROBLEM AND THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION PROBLEM WITH ONE STROKE. AL-AMERI'S PAST COMMUNIST ASSOCIATIONS HAVE CAUSED SOME TO QUESTION HIS LOYALTIES, BUT HIS RECENT EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCES AND BEHAVIOR AS AMBASSADOR, FOREIGN MINISTER, AND EDUCATION MINISTER HAVE SUPPRESSED SUCH DOUBTS AND GIVEN HIM THE BENEFIT OF THEM WHEN WEIGHED AGAINST HIS RECOGNIZED EXECUTIVE ABILITY.

NO FOREIGN DISSEM

SECRET

IN 62516

TDCS - 314/19296-68

PAGE 6 OF 8 PAGES

SECRET

NO FOREIGN DISSEM

4. TALHUNI HAS HAD THE KNIFE OUT FOR DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SECURITY MAJOR GENERAL MA'N BIL ALAY FOR SOME TIME. TALHUNI HAS OPPOSED ABU NUWAR'S INDEPENDENCE IN DEALING WITH THE FEDAYIIN, BUT, MORE IMPORTANT, HE HAD EARMARKED THE JOB FOR HIS OLD CRONY, EX-PUBLIC SECURITY DIRECTOR AND PRESENT GOVERNOR OF AMMAN, HIKMAT MINYAR. THE KING HAS BEEN UNHAPPY WITH ABU NUWAR'S INDECISION AND LACK OF EXECUTIVE ABILITY, SO THERE WAS NO DIFFERENCE WITH TALHUNI OVER ABU NUWAR'S REMOVAL, ONLY OVER A SUITABLE REPLACEMENT. IN THIS THE KING WON BY ASSIGNING FORMER DIRECTOR OF GENERAL INTELLIGENCE, MAJOR GENERAL MUHAMMAD RASUL KAYLANI, A LONG-TIME ROYAL PROTEGE AND A DISTINCT NON-FAVORITE OF TALHUNI. TALHUNI LOST BECAUSE HE COULD NOT DENY THAT KAYLANI WAS MORE QUALIFIED THAN ANY OF THE OTHER CANDIDATES. ACTUALLY, THE KING HAD BEEN SEARCHING FOR AN APPROPRIATE ASSIGNMENT FOR KAYLANI TO REHABILITATE HIM AFTER TEN MONTHS OF QUASI-VOLUNTARY OFFICIAL EXILE AS A RESULT OF A NEAR NERVOUS BREAKDOWN LAST FEBRUARY, AND WAS ABOUT TO ASSIGN HIM AS AN ADVISOR IN THE PALACE. THE ALMOST SIMULTANEOUS DISCOVERY BY THE

NO FOREIGN DISSEM

SECRET

IN 62516

TDCB- 314/19296-68

PAGE 7 OF 8 PAGES

SECRET

NO FOREIGN DISSEM

(Classification) (Control)

KING ON 23 DECEMBER OF A COUP PLOT BY THE TAMRIR PARTY AGAINST THE REGIME, WHICH HAD COMPLETELY ESCAPED DETECTION BY THE INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY SERVICES, CONVINCED THE KING THAT INTERNAL SECURITY ORGANS NEEDED IMMEDIATE STRENGTHENING. THIS, PLUS HIS CONFIDENCE IN KAYLANI, AND ENCOURAGEMENT FROM SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE COURT ZAYD RIFA'I, WHO PREFERRED KAYLANI POSTED TO THE SECURITY FORCES RATHER THAN AS A COMPETITOR IN THE PALACE, PERSUADED THE KING TO INSIST ON KAYLANI'S ASSIGNMENT AS PUBLIC SECURITY CHIEF.

5. IN AN EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE PALACE IMAGE, THE KING HAS ALSO QUIETLY TRANSFERRED, WITHOUT REPLACEMENTS, THREE PALACE AIDES: IANY ATALLAH, SHARIF ZAYD BIN HUSAYN, AND SHARIF GHAZI. ALL HAVE PLAY-BOY REPUTATIONS. ARE SOCIAL COMPANIONS OF THE KING, AND THE LATTER TWO ARE RELATED HASHIMITES. THE TRANSFERS WERE AIMED IN PART AT COUNTERING GROWING LOCAL CRITICISM OF THE "YOUNG KIDS" WITH WHOM THE KING HAS SURROUNDED HIMSELF FOR ADVICE.

6. THE KING MADE A SPECIAL EFFORT THIS TIME TO MAINTAIN HIS PERSONAL RELATIONS AND "TAKE CARE OF" THE

NO FOREIGN DISSEM

SECRET

IN 62516

TDCS- 314/19296-68

PAGE 8 OF 8 PAGES

SECRET

NO FOREIGN DISSEM

DISMISSED OFFICIALS. THIS HAS NOT BEEN THE PAST PATTERN, WHICH FREQUENTLY RESULTED IN UNNECESSARY HUMILIATION AND HARD FEELINGS. AS SOMETHING OF A NOVELTY THE KING RECEIVED ALL OF THE EXITING MINISTERS, THANKED THEM FOR THEIR SERVICES, PROMISED TO CALL ON THEIR TALENTS IN THE FUTURE, AND ORDERED ANY PERSONAL ASSISTANCE THEY REQUIRED. INDIVIDUALLY, THE KING OFFERED NUSAYBIN THE AMBASSADORSHIP IN CAIRO, ~~ABU WUBUH~~ THE AMBASSADORSHIP IN BONN, AND ~~ABU ZAYF~~ THE AMBASSADORSHIP IN LONDON. MIDHAT JUMA, THE PRESENT JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR IN LONDON, WILL PROBABLY BE POSTED TO MOSCOW. FARHAN SHUBTLAI, PRESENT AMBASSADOR TO BONN, MAY BE RETIRED. *Turned it down*

7. FIELD DISSEM: STATE ARMY CINCEAFSA CINCUSNAVEUR CINCOUTH COSIXTHFLT. (ALSO SENT [] AND USUN.)

REPORT CLASS SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM

SECRET